

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090139

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT USUN 1587 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APR 30:

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1587

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, WA

SUBJ: US AND UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

SUMMARY: USUN BELIEVES TIME IS RIPE FOR US TO DISCUSS WITH  
SCANS AND UK POSSIBILITY FOR US JOINING AT SAME TIME COUNCIL  
FOR NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY

1. PROGRESS BY UN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN IMPLEMENTING  
1966 ICJ ADVISORY OPINION ON NANIBIA, WHICH WAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED  
BY SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS, HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING. DESPITE  
US SUPPORT FOR ICJ ADVISORY IPINION, ABSENCE OF ANY WESTERN  
PRESENCE ON COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES HAS  
CONTRIBUTED TO RENDERING COUNCIL INEFFECTIVE.
2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT EARLIER COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA  
CONTAINED EXTREMIST PROPOSALS FOR ARMED ENTRY INTO THAT TERRITORY.  
\*745#34, PRESENCE OF VITRIOLIC AMB OGBU (NIGERIA) AS COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN, AND CONCURRENT ABSENCE OF PERSONALITY OF INTERNATIONAL  
STATURE AS COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA TENDED, RIGHTFULLY SO, TO  
DIMINISH US INTEREST. SITUATION, HOWEVER, HAS SINCE EVOLVED  
CONSIDERABLY. DE FACTO, COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE COME TO  
RECOGNIZE THAT SUGGESTIONS ADVANCED BY EARLIER RHETORIC ARE  
IMOPERABLE IN PRACTICE. OGBU HAS BEEN REPLACED BY PRAGMATIC  
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RASHLEIGH JACKSON (GUYANA). AND THIRDLY, SEAM MACBRIDE LENDS

IMPORTANT DEGREE OF RESPECTABILITY AND REALISM TO OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER.

3. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, US INVESTORS IN NAMIBIA ARE COMING UNDER INCREASINGLY HEAVY FIRE. ADVOCATES OF VIOLENCE FIND THEIR RANKS SWELLING AS RESULT OF FRUSTRATIONS IN DEALING WITH PRETORIA. ALL THIS OCCURS AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF THE SC'S BREAK IN SYG "CONTACTS," AND WE FORESEE EVEN FURTHER PRESSURE OPPOSING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. WERE US TO SUCCEED IN ENCOURAGING SCANS AND/OR UK TO JOIN COUNCIL, WITH PROMISE OF OUR JOINING AT SAME TIME OURSELVES, ATTENTION BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES AGAIN COULD TURN TOWARD POSSIBILITY OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION,

4. CURRENT SITUATION IS SUCH AS TO MAKE IT ADVISABLE ON MORAL AND PRACTICAL GROUNDS TO AFFILIATE OURSELVES WITH COUNCIL. CONTINUING AS US DOES TO ESPOUSE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION IN SOLVING THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA, WE SHOULD INDICATE OUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UN ORGAN WHOSE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IS TO IMPLEMENT JUST THAT. FURTHER, OUR PRIVATE EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO AFFILIATE OURSELVES WITH COUNCIL MIGHT WELL ENCOURAGE SCANS AND UK TO JOIN. SHOULD SCANS (AND/OR UK) AGREE, WE COULD "APPLY" FOR MEMBERSHIP TOGETHER. IN OUR VIEW, THIS ACTION CLEARLY COULD ASSIST THE CAUSE OF REASON.

5. NOT LEAST OF ALL, US POLICY CONCERNING PORTUGUESE AFRICA WILL LIKELY COME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AT 29TH GA, PARTICULARLY IF WE VETO GUINEA (BISSAU) MEMBERSHIP. POSITION OF WILSON GOVERNMENT MAY SERVE TO ISOLATE US FURTHER ON CERTAIN OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. AFRICAN DISTASTE FOR OUR PERFORMANCE ON QUESTIONS CLOSEST TO THEIR HEARTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN THEIR DEFIANCE ON MATTERS CLOSEST TO US, E.G. CAMBODIA, KOREA, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, UN FINANCIAL QUESTIONS, ETC. US MEMBERSHIP ON COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA, WHICH HAS BEEN APPEALED FOR BY MACBRIDE AND JACKSON COULD HELP, IN LARGE MEASURE, TO IMPROVE US IMAGE, GAIN AFRICAN SUPPORT ON AFRICAN AND OTHER UN ISSUES AND, CONCEIVABLY, ASSIST IN ARRIVING AT LONG-RANGE SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA -- WITH LITTLE IF ANY TANGIBLE FALLOUT FOR US ON NEGATIVE SIDE. SAG DOUBTLESS WOULD BE UNHAPPY ABOUT SUCH MOVE BY US SHOULD WE, SCANS AND /OR UK AGREE TO JOIN. WE WOULD EXPECT COST TO US BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT BE GREAT, HOWEVER, SHOULD WE EXPLAIN TO SAG, BEFORE MAKING OUR DECISION PUBLIC, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT WE ARE DOING SO BECAUSE WE DON NOT WISH TO ABANDON THE FIELD OF PROPONENTS OF VIOLENCE, BUT DESIRE INSTEAD TO SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE EFFORTS WHICH NOW SEEM MORE POSSIBLE THEN IN PAST.

6. RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEPT FAVORABLY CONSIDER MISSION'S PROPOSAL THAT USUN BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS PRIVATELY WITH SCANS AND UK POSSIBILITY OF TOGETHER JOINING COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA IN NEAR FUTURE. SCALI  
UNQTE RUSH

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